

## PARTY TIME FOR CLASS OF 2006

### Senior Night last fling before graduation

By Samantha Saines

If saying goodbye is really inevitable, then it might as well take place at a party. And that's what Senior Night is all about—one last celebration for the Class of 2006 before graduation.

On Friday, May 12, 2006, St. Joseph's College will hold its annual Senior Night in honor of the Class of 2006.

The night pays tribute to the accomplishments and achievements of the members of the class, and gives those members, their family and friends a chance to mingle and spend a few last hours together before—well, before the realities of life set in.

It takes months of planning to make Senior Night a success. Under the guidance of Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Student Services, and her staff, the Senior Committee selects a theme, plans the menu, arranges for music and photographers, and in general, oversees all of the evening's major events.

"Senior Night is a wonderful opportunity for members of the Class of 2006 and their families to celebrate with each other and with members of the faculty and administration," said Ms. VanArnam.

This year, the Senior Committee has decided upon a Caribbean theme to embellish the evening. In keeping with this theme, consideration is being given to a Caribbean-

style menu to provide a colorful taste of island cuisine.

The committee was also looking into the possibility of having a steel drum band on hand for entertainment.

Each member of the committee has input on planning decorations, selecting guest speakers and organizing the overall program.

One of the major features of the night will be the distribution of *Footprints 2006*, the college's yearbook.

Last year was the first time in several years that the yearbook was actually ready for distribution by Senior Night and that tradition will be continued again this year.

"We have met all of our deadlines and there should be no reason why the yearbook will not be here on time," said Director of Student Publications, Dr. Howie Weiner.

The theme of the yearbook, "In Our Own Backyard," is certainly apropos of Senior Night, since the majority of the activities will take place on the mall in front of the Dillon Center including dinner, dancing, photographs, and the yearbook distribution.

Also open that evening will be the small garden hideaway to the left of the Dillon Center so that parents may photograph seniors in front of the garden's fountain.

"It's exciting to be able to celebrate graduating from college, the culmination of four years of

hard work," said Fiona McWilliam. "I'm looking forward to spending this last night together with the senior class," she added.

During the ceremonies in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall, the Senior Gift to the school will be announced. Usually a well-guarded secret, the gift represents a final thank you the seniors give for their undergraduate education.

Also at the ceremonies, the newly selected members of *Who's Who in American Colleges* will be announced. These students have been selected on the basis of their academic averages and their participation in extracurricular activities at St. Joseph's during their four year stay.

"I am looking forward to seeing and being with the seniors one last time before we graduate and say goodbye," said Billy Haufmann.

Senior Night is usually one of the most heavily attended activities on campus during the course of the year. Those seniors who were busy off campus with student teaching or internships or jobs, seem to find the time to come back for one last celebration of the time they spent at St. Joseph's.

"I am very excited to go to Senior Night for the last time to spend time with my friends and enjoy the good food," said Itchelle Whyte.

Food, friends, fun—and a night full of memories for one final time. And then, it will be farewell to St. Joseph's for the Class of 2006.



Senior Night means a banquet on the mall



Senior Night: A time to share with family and friends



Senior Night: Awards and Honors are presented

## HONORS STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK IN SPAIN

### Madrid and Seville cultural and historical destinations

By Christina Ament

Many student spend their spring break lounging around the house, watching television, hanging out with friends or catching up on sleep. But some St. Joseph's students and faculty spent this year's break quite differently.

This year, ten students from the Honors Program, Sister Margaret Buckley and three professors—Professor Beckwith (art), Professor Daney (history) and Professor Montoya (Spanish) all traveled to Seville and Madrid, Spain, for eight days of touring and learning.

The trip is part of an incentive for students to remain in the Honors Program. For this reason, S. Margaret suggests planning the

trip for the students' junior year.

To participate in the program, students need to complete two courses that have been designated as Honors Level. They also need to complete three honors options, meaning they choose liberal arts courses which are of interest to them and do extra work for that course.

The trip is considered an honors option and students who went on the trip were taking honors classes during this semester.

For instance, S. Margaret noted that eight students were taking "Workshop in Spanish Art, History and Culture" while two students were taking a course in Spanish language and Spanish

culture and civilization.

Another incentive for students to stay in the Honors Program is that the college pays half the amount of the trip for the students.

The college provides this opportunity for students because, according to S. Margaret, "trips abroad are very enriching for students. They expand students' horizons and open up new doors and windows."

This is the second year that the college has offered an opportunity for students to travel abroad. Last year, the Honors Program visited Italy. Spain was chosen this year by the faculty who wanted to try something different. Spain, being

rich in history and art heritage, seemed like an ideal choice.

"Another reason that Spain was chosen was to take advantage of Professor Montoya's experience," said S. Margaret. Professor Montoya has lived in Spain and was in Madrid two years ago this summer.

Professor Montoya claims that although she lived in Spain, she had never been to Seville. "This trip gave me the opportunity to go somewhere in Spain I have never seen in my own country," she said.

The honors students and professors particularly enjoyed Seville because it was smaller and more personal than Madrid.

On the trip, students who

studied Spanish artists and famous people in Spanish history gave presentations to the rest of the group.

The group visited the historic center of Seville, saw the mosque in the Jewish quarter and visited museums and other sites as well.

Professor Daney also gave a brief class after breakfast about what the group was going to see each day. Professor Montoya "made suggestions about what was worth seeing on a particular day."

"I found Spain so interesting," said S. Margaret. "I would go again to see the architecture, which is impressive and had a great impact upon Spanish culture."



# EDITORIALS

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KNOWLEDGE?

Socrates once said, "The only good is knowledge and the only evil ignorance." If that is true, then America must be very evil indeed. How else could one possibly explain the level of learning achieved by American students today?

The surveys have been taken, the polls completed, and the results, if you will pardon the hyperbole, are nothing short of horrifying. Consider this: 1000 American college graduates were asked a series of questions. Here are some of the results: 38% of those students could name all five members of the Simpsons family. But only 1/10th of 1%-1 student-could name all five rights guaranteed in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. An amazing 17% of the students surveyed thought that Abraham Lincoln was the first president of the United States. Less than 10% could identify the four faces carved into Mount Rushmore, South Dakota.

We are becoming a nation of dolts. We are a nation who can name every winner of *American Idol*, but think John Hancock started an insurance company and Samuel Adams only made beer. We have lost touch with our heritage—and a proud heritage it is—in favor for transient pop culture that, when measured against eternity, is both banal and eminently forgettable.

Who to blame? Maybe the educrats who are so devoted to teaching 'concepts' that they overlook the fact that there were *people* behind those concepts—people who had names, who made sacrifices, who did real things to bring about a new nation.

We treat history as if it were some kind of dirty word—one that leaves a foul taste in our mouths. Instead, we opt for the less meaningful 'social studies' which really is non-descriptive and vacuous.

Too many college graduates have no facts at their disposal—but plenty of concepts. Names? Places? Things? Titles? Oh, we can always Google those if we need them. Really?

Professor E.D. Hirsch of the University of Virginia, who coined the phrase "Cultural Literacy" in 1985, posited the theory that every educated person should possess a store of "shared knowledge"—a core of factual information at his disposal. He also noted that, "The lack of wide-ranging background information among young men and women now in their twenties and thirties is an important cause of the illiteracy that large corporations are finding in their middle-level executives."

A knowledge of facts does not preclude a student from learning to conceptualize—to think or reason. It does, however, enhance such thoughts and ideas by being able to support arguments along factual lines.

How typical in America that we find new ways to dumb things down. Too many times, students graduate high school with virtually no knowledge of classical music, fine art, history and culture in general.

Oh, we are very big on teaching things like the political reasons behind World War II. But do we ever once in our 'social studies' courses mention Tarawa or Guadalcanal or the Bulge or Midway or Leyte Gulf or Okinawa? Few American students know much more about Gettysburg than that it has an address.

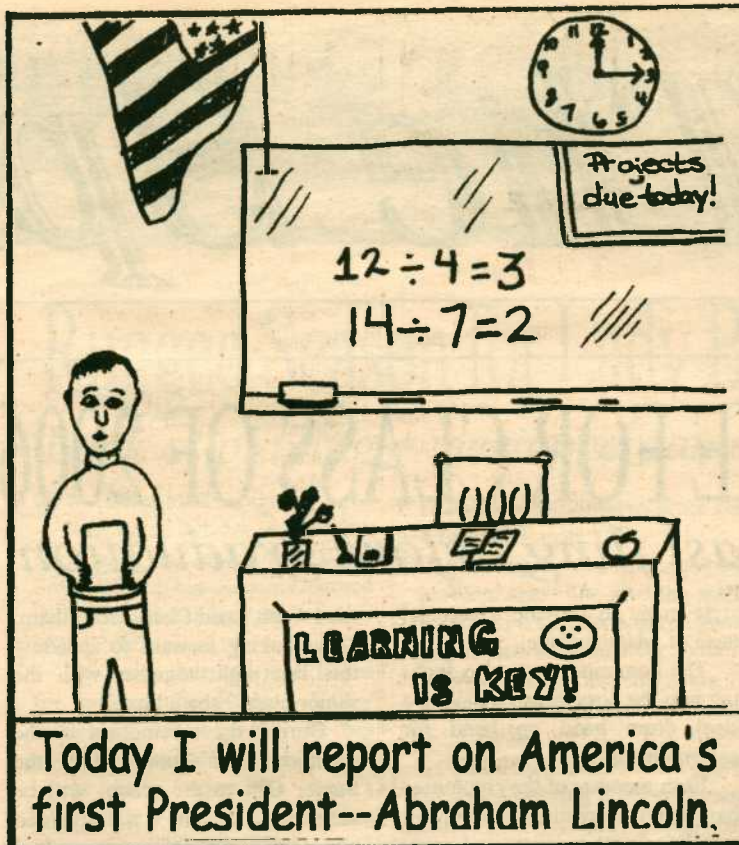
Educrats pontificate about the importance of teaching 'values' to our children—and by that, they simply mean a respect for diversity. But don't values include things like courage? Patriotism? Self-sacrifice? Devotion to ideals? When we lose sight of values like those, we turn our nation into a barren field where only the latest *-isms* are considered worthy of teaching.

How sad—for 650,000 Americans who perished in World War II—for another 600,000 who died in the Civil War. We have forgotten them. We know nothing of what they gave—so that the educrats who never sacrificed anything in their lives can sit around and determine *why* it is not important to remember what they stood for and what they did.

History? Facts? Names? Places? Why bother? If we had to learn those, we wouldn't have time to watch *Beauty and the Geek*.

## KUDOS TO U.A. AND C.A.B.

Special events, parties, guest speakers, cultural events—new clubs, new teams, new publications. In other words, literally something for everyone at St. Joe's. Everyone on campus owes a great debt of thanks to Director of Student Services Sherrie VanArnam, the members of the student government and CAB for another highly successful year of activities. *The Spirit* wishes to congratulate all of them on a job well done.



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# Tara Talk

By Tara Vafiadou

## TEACHING IS NOBLE – BUT DO I DARE DO IT?

Recently, I came to a decision. After much agonizing, I declared my major and decided that I wanted to be a teacher.

I had been thinking of it for a while and believed it to be a noble profession, one in which I could really help out young children and give them a head start in life.

I felt good about my choice and inwardly swelled with pride, having opted for a profession in which I would never get rich, but would still do something vital for society.

Well, it didn't take long for me to start to have second thoughts. It seemed that everyone I spoke to had a different nightmare to recount about the teaching profession.

Some I discounted immediately—until those stories were corroborated by others now in the profession, or training for it—or who had left it abruptly.

Others sounded more plausible but equally frightening to someone who 'wants to make a difference.'

One former teacher told me that she was harassed by her principal in an elementary school (which shall remain nameless) because she stapled samples of student work to the bulletin board with the staples running horizontally instead of at an angle in the upper left hand corner of the page.

Another told me that she

received a letter in her file because she did not have her classroom set up according to the floor plan that comes directly from the Department of Education.

Still another student teacher said that her cooperating teacher was chastised because she gave a spelling quiz to her class—something which is strictly taboo these days, or so I have been told.

Yet another student teacher told me that writing on the blackboard is strictly forbidden, and that teachers must use large pads of newsprint which are placed on easels.

"What's the difference?" I inquired with incredulity.

She merely shrugged and said, "Because that's the way it is."

That might be true—that's the way it is—but it's not an answer. *Why* is it that way? *Why* are all these petty restrictions being imposed upon teachers?

Sure, I'm just a freshman in college, so what do I know? Well, I know how I learned to spell—and the weekly spelling tests I took have done me no harm.

Teachers can no longer mark papers using red pens—I suppose because all that red ink damages the psyche of young kids. So in other words, if a paper comes back filled with *green* ink, or *purple* ink—the kids won't quickly figure out that

now *green* means bad?

I suppose the people who make the rules must think that young children are just stupid if they think they buy into those ideas. Again, I don't have all that much experience with first graders—but I don't really think they are that dumb.

One member of St. Joe's faculty even told me that if I want to teach, do it where you will be respected, supported, nurtured—in other words, any place but New York City.

Another thing I have been told (and I don't know how true it is), is that many new teachers wind up in the worst schools in the worst areas with the worst kids, because all the plum positions are filled by older teachers who just don't leave them.

But aren't the senior teachers the ones most capable of handling the problems of those children, rather than someone who has four months of student teaching under their belt and is an absolute novice?

All these questions—and so few answers. I am sure that at St. Joseph's I will learn many techniques I need to know in order to manage a classroom and be a successful teacher.

But there will always be in my mind the question: is this really what I want to do for the rest of my life? And do I want to do it here?

**THE STAFF OF  
THE SPIRIT  
WISHES THE CLASS OF 2006  
THE BEST OF LUCK**





## MUSICAL NOTES

By John Castaldo

### REDEFINING AMERICAN IDOLS

*American Idol*, a cultural phenomenon, is at present, a dominant force in television. Lately, however, I and a few friends have been asking, "What exactly is an American Idol?"

It seems that in the music world, an American Idol is a singer who can sing in the R&B style of music. In essence, he or she can sing with an amount of 'soul.' But is this a fair definition?

No! America is a country that prides itself on cultural diversity. America is a country with numerous cultures in its background. The music of the country throughout the years has reflected the native cultures of its inhabitants and has referenced topics as varied as war, getting drunk at a bar because your woman has left you, and itsy bitsy teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikinis.

And the performers have also varied, hailing from both the inner cities of America to the elite of society.

Since each region of the country brings its own style and sub-culture to the musical world. How, then, can a country like America select *one* musical idol?

Few New Yorkers have heard of Travis Tritt or Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. Does that mean that fans of country and bluegrass music aren't entitled to *their* American idols?

Apparently the answer is 'NO' with a capital 'N.' Why? Because right now, R&B is the dominant style, and what constitutes an American Idol is one who can tailor their performance to that particular type of music.

Performers with an R&B vocal style can easily adapt themselves to other musical genres and can perform other songs to their own style.

R&B is sexy and smooth, and it influences other types of music; however, must as it is an influence,

it is clearly influenced by other genres, such as jazz and blues. Yet you never see a jazz performer (a la Nora Jones or Diana Krall) on *American Idol*. They are never get any serious consideration from the judges.

Popular or not, it is not fair play to say that only an R&B singer can be an American Idol. Nor is it necessarily the American style.

Imagine legendary crooners like Sinatra, Mercer, Como, Martin and Crosby showing up for an audition on *American Idol*—and being excluded because their styles weren't 'in.' Timeless maybe, but in? No.

Even legendary jazz vocalists like Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Peggy Lee and Nancy Wilson would get the boot from Simon, Randy or Paula. Amazing.

The point I am trying to make is that *American Idol*, although seemingly embracing of other styles, gears itself towards R&B.

An American Idol must have a big voice like a Whitney Houston or a Luther Vandross. Crooners came, saw—and lost. Rockers came, saw—and lost. Jazz vocalists were morphed by way of R&B arrangements. Country singers went the way of Shania Twain and Faith Hill and became (what does VH1 call them?)—divas.

The sad part is that the majority of America consistently votes for these R&B singers and rarely if ever considers those with a different vocal style.

Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard, Fantasia and the other winners all came from the same vocal mold.

Don't get me wrong: it's not a bad mold—it's just not the only mold.

It seems that America, once a musical field of dreams, is becoming like terrestrial radio—a boring, uninspired playlist with little to no room for something different.

Well, this is my last column for the year, but I will be back in September to share more musical thoughts with my readers at St. Joe's. Have a great summer everyone!

## Junior Night Marks Point of Transition

### Senior year beckons with rings and things

By Tara Vafiadou

One more year. Essentially, that's what Junior Night is all about—the fact that the Class of 2007 is on the launching pad, having completed three years of college, and is ready for that final step into senior year.

To celebrate their notable achievements, Junior Class Night was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

The theme for the evening, "This Timie....and Tomorrow," was selected by the Junior Night committee.

The celebration began with a musical performance of "The Impossible Dream," from the Broadway show, *Man of La Mancha*. It was performed by Andrea Rosado accompanied on the piano by Anthony Rosado.

This was followed by welcoming remarks by Junior Natalie Fascianella, the Treasurer of CAB.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Janine Farraj, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Management at St. Joseph's College, and a graduate of St. Joseph's Class of 2005.

The topic for Ms. Farraj's speech was the changes that students have already undergone—and those changes which await them as they prepare for their senior year in college.

"I think time flies way too fast," said junior Stephen Klein. "It's

hard to keep up. Before you know it, boom—you're here," he added.

There were also reflections by Meaghan Ring and Gracia Gustave, both of the Class of 2007. Each one added a personal dimension to the meaning of Junior Night and how college has impacted upon their lives and futures. Their reflections included the idea that they are part of St. Joseph's family, and that family has made a profound difference to them.

A benediction was offered by Dr. Michael Hannophy, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Biology at St. Joseph's College.

Dr. Hannophy made it clear that Junior Night "is a night of celebration of the unique community that the Junior Class has created at St. Joseph's College. Each year has a different personality and they will leave a mark on this institution."

Dr. Hannophy also reflected on the significance of the class ring and how it would be a reminder to each wearer of the personality of the Class of 2007.

Closing remarks were made by Susan Hudec, Ph.D., the Dean of Students. She encouraged the students to go out and follow the ideals of, "I can, I am and I will."

Associate Director of Admissions Keith Outlaw next performed

the popular song "Breakaway."

Dinner and dessert were served buffet-style in the auditorium and class members and their families had the chance to mingle and discuss the coming of senior year.

"It feels great to be back and see my friends," said Alex Podushko, who recently transferred to Baruch College. "It just feels so good to be back for the Junior Class celebration," he added.

The organizing committee for Junior Night consisted of Christopher Burke, Qi Bin Li, Victoria Simon, Jennifer Fatal, Gurjit Singh, Natalie Fascianella, Deva Ramlal and Caitlin McCaffrey.

Gurjit Singh, the Junior Class Representative, said, "I was very happy to see students enjoying and celebrating their accomplishments with their family members."

Other major players in the organization of the night were Director of Student Services Sherrie VanArnam, her assistant Jaime Vacca, senior Willow Figueroa and Kerry Burke.

"Junior Night was a good idea because it was a way for us to celebrate our next and last year at St. Joseph's," said Jennifer Flynn.

And in little more than a year's time, the Class of 2007 will gather once again—this time for Senior Night.



Natalie Fascianella receives her flowers at Junior Night

## Bernie McGrenahan gets 'Happy'

By Tara Vafiadou

The term Happy Hour is usually associated with after-work hours gatherings at bars when drinks are both plentiful and cheap. So how did it come to pass that a 'happy hour' was held at St. Joseph's—and that the message was one of responsibility rather than revelry?

For stand-up comedian Bernie McGrenahan, his routines are all about the message. Though billed as a 'happy hour' event, McGrenahan tries to show college age students and teenagers the dangers of irresponsible drinking and the susceptibility that young people have to binge drinking and then driving.

And the message is sugar-coated

under the guise of comic routines.

Happy Hour, organized and run by CAB, brought McGrenahan to St. Joseph's because of the ease with which he relates to college age students.

"I like to relate to my audience," said McGrenahan, "but I also use my jokes as a tool to teach lessons about alcohol," he added.

He has appeared on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show as well as *Comedy Central*. But as well as those appearances, he enjoys gigs that bring him close to students on college campuses throughout America.

"I want people to realize how subtle alcohol is and how quickly it can become a problem," he said. "And

once it really is a problem, ego will never allow you to admit it," he added.

The Happy Hour was attended by members of the senate as well as students and staff.

"I liked him a lot," said Carissa Cancemi. "He taught a serious lesson with a comic twist," she added.

Other students reacted with similar enthusiasm and approval of the event. "I found him educational in a comic way," said Nicole Hood. "It was psychedelic" added James Ciago.

Bernie McGrenahan frequently appears in New York area comedy clubs doing stand-up and dates and times of his performances can be found on his website: [www.happyhourcomedy.com](http://www.happyhourcomedy.com).



Bernie McGrenahan with editors Ashley Pucciarelli and Tara Vafiadou





SJC Jazz Ensemble rehearses for its performance



## THE GAMESMAN

by ROBERT MARRIELLO

### KEEP YOUR GAMING KNOWLEDGE CURRENT

Sometimes in the world of gaming, keeping up to date on things like when a new game or system is coming out is important, so for all my readers, I will keep you as up to date as I can.

I'd like to dedicate this column to some of my favorite places to get information on gaming—from TV shows to podcasts (recorded radio broadcasts for I-Pods and MP3 players), to websites, and finally, magazines.

To start us off, for TV shows there are several cover games, although because of lineup changes of G4TV, one of the channels that's usually on either satellite or digital cable, most of their game-related shows are now only shown rarely or can be shown in segments on video podcasts. But I will cover those later.

The main gaming show on G4TV is "X-Play," the show whose style of reviews I base my own upon. On "X-Play," hosts Adam Sessler and Morgan Webb give reviews on some of the newest games and previews of games to come in ways that make even the most boring games seem interesting.

Occasionally, when the review well runs dry, they offer a little game-related skit on the show.

In the area of podcasts, there are several that I have both listened to and watch, all of which can be gotten on iTunes or their websites. One of them is the "X-Play" video podcasts, which are edited down to just the reviews and skits in their entirety with nothing else provided.

Depending upon your preference for time and whether or not you want some words beeped out or not, there are two that I would suggest. The first is "Dreamstation.cc Video Game Show" which tends to go for about half an hour and beeps out any foul language.

This show comes out once a week and it features the main host, Chris, a game programmer, and a series of other guest hosts that come on from time to time.

Although focused on games, it does have other things as well from poll topics to viewer mail to Emilio the Whooping Llama, the

creature that warns kids not to play certain games.

The other show is "Gamer Andy Live," a crash hour to hour and a half audio podcast that comes out about every week or so and is more about several people talking about gaming and recent game-related events than anything else.

Like Dreamstation, this podcast has several hosts, most of which go by their gaming aliases. The main guest host is Hawkes, possibly the oldest person on the show as well as the most foul-mouthed person.

This show will hold true gamers' attentions for its entire length and in my opinion, it will keep you coming back for more when a new episode comes out.

As for websites, Dreamstation.cc and Gamerandy.com, the websites for the above mentioned podcasts, have everything you need to know about previous and future podcasts.

Another website is also the only gaming magazine I know of, even though there are others out there: IGN.com and IGN magazine. This site and magazine keep gamers up to date with all the gaming news. It is probably one of the most versatile sources of game information out there for gamers on any level.

Now it's time for the Fact or Fake section of my column. Last time I talked about Jack Thompson, one of the most well known anti-gaming lawyers. The answer to the question was letter C—Jack decided *not* to sue a teenager who made a threat after he bought a game at Best Buy that he was too young to buy.

Now, for this month's Fact or Fake is based on the contents of this column. I will give you three recurring characters from the podcasts I listed, but only one is real and two are fake. Hey, I can't keep making it simple for you!

Here are your choices for the real character: A) M.C. Fragsalot from "Dreamstation.cc" B) Slippery the Fish from "X-Play" of C) Bumblefoot from "Gamer Andy Live."

Like always, the answer will be revealed in my next column, so until then, goodbye—and good gaming!

# Music— and All that Jazz

## SJC Jazz Ensemble keeps growing and performing

By Tara Vafiadou

Jazz, that great American art form, is alive and well at St. Joseph's College and thanks to the efforts of *The Spirit's* own Music Editor, John Castaldo, it is thriving.

In the fall of 2004, then Freshmen John Castaldo found it hard to believe that a school like St. Joseph's College had no jazz ensemble. Immediately, he decided to do something to remedy that absence.

He approached Professor Leon Bernarden of the Music Department and asked him to be the moderato for an SJC Jazz Ensemble. After Professor Bernarden consented, Castaldo presented the idea to the senate, and received unanimous approval for the new musical ensemble.

He envisioned a group where he could bring talented musicians together to enjoy playing jazz, exploring the standard jazz repertoire and learn about ensemble playing from the experience.

The group now consists of nine players: John Castaldo (alto sax, vocals, director), Mike Multari (bass/assistant director), Jennifer Ciago (piano/secretary), Jim Ciago (guitar/piano/senate rep), Francisco Rangel (piano), Amanda Gavagan (Tenor Sax),

Erin Dorso (alto sax) and Rocco Riccardi (drums).

The ensemble is occasionally supplemented by members of the St. Joseph's staff such as S. Betty Calfapietra (trumpet), Professor Stanley Nevins (vocals) and Keith Outlaw (vocals).

The SJC Jazz Ensemble meets several times during the week in Room 409 of McEntegart Hall which has become their unofficial rehearsal hall and studio. Practices take place during common hour and at rehearsals, the literature of jazz is explored and performed.

"We are creating music of fusion," said Jim Ciago. "Every time we practice, we strive for the highest quality in our playing," he added.

When the group first started, Castaldo promised that it would double in size within a year, and that goal has been met. "We are always looking for new musical talent to play with us," he said, "and each September, we will try very hard to recruit incoming freshmen to join the jazz ensemble," he added.

Thus far, the band has performed at St. Joseph's College events such as the Dance Recital, the Fashion Show, Cabaret Night and held its own common hour mini-concerts.

At the present time, Castaldo is in contact with other colleges

such as Pratt Institute to see if he can organize a joint ensemble, calling upon talent players from their student body.

It is entirely possible that John Castaldo's efforts to bring performance and jazz to St. Joseph's College has influenced the Music Department's decision to create a music minor for the fall 2006 semester.

The Jazz Ensemble's latest performance was on Tuesday, April 11 during Common Hour and again at 7 PM. "It's very gratifying to see how many students will stop by and listen to jazz," said Castaldo. "That type of interest just motivates us to want to be better, play more, and get even further into jazz," he adds.

As for an ultimate goal, "Well, I would love to lead a 17 piece big band like the Miller of Goodman bands of the 1940s," said Castaldo, "but who knows if we will ever have that many musicians available. You need four trombones alone to recreate that kind of sound—and these days? Well, I can dream, can't I," he added.

Jazz, now 90 years old, has made its presence known at St. Joseph's for two years. Time will tell if the future holds bigger and better things for it.

# Brooklyn and Patchogue Students Meet to Dialogue

By Carlos Pimental

Though it might sound like a political coming-together of top level diplomats on an international scale, East Meets West has a more modern meaning for St. Joseph's College.

Held on March 12, 2006, East Meets West was indeed a coming together—but of students from the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses of St. Joseph's to both become familiar with each other's campuses and to discuss issues and problems both common and unique to each.

Following the East Meets West visit of student government members to the Patchogue campus in the fall, twelve students came to Brooklyn for the second meeting of minds.

The conference began in the morning in the Parlors of Tuohy Hall, where the twelve Patchogue students were introduced to their Brooklyn counterparts.

Following a continental breakfast, a tour of the Brooklyn campus was conducted. The Patchogue delegation expressed amazement at the size of the basketball court—and the inexpensive prices in the school cafeteria.

One of the topics of discussion at the conference was the widely varied nature of the student bodies at each school.

The Brooklyn campus is a much more diverse atmosphere. Students from numerous ethnic and national backgrounds are

enrolled here, whereas the Long Island campus tends to be much more homogeneous, the bulk of the students coming from white, middle-class backgrounds.

The diversity of the Brooklyn campus, maintained the Brooklyn delegates to the conference, is one of the great assets of the school—getting to know classmates and make friends from different cultures.

A break in the conference saw the students repairing to Graziella's Italian Restaurant on Vanderbilt Avenue for lunch.

In the informal setting of the restaurant, the students from both

campuses had ample opportunity to get to know each other.

Following lunch, the students took a tour of the dorm facility at the St. George Hotel. Despite climbing flights of stairs, the Patchogue students were highly impressed by everything that dorming students had at their disposal both in the St. George or within walking distance of it.

By the end of the day, both Brooklyn and Patchogue students of St. Joseph's College had acquired a better understanding of the problems that each campus faces, and a new sense of inter-campus unity had been forged.



Participants in the East Meets West conference



# Bestselling Author in Common Hour Reading

## Jonathan Safran Foer reads from prize-winning novels

By Christina Ament

St. Joseph's students and staff members were treated to a visit by a new star in the literary galaxy, Jonathan Safran Foer, when he came to the Brooklyn campus to do readings from his novels.

Thursday, March 18 saw the author ensconced in the second floor balcony of McEntegart Hall during common hour, surrounded by students and faculty who were anxious to hear selections from his novels, *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*.

*Everything is Illuminated*, Foer's first novel, won the Los Angeles Times Book of the Year award and the National Jewish Book Award as well as the New York Public Library's Young Lions Prize.

A resident of Park Slope, Brooklyn, Foer said, "I really love Clinton Hill, especially on a day

like today. It's nice coming to a school partly for selfish reasons. It's fun and plus, I was a student once too."

Foer's first novel was turned into a recent Hollywood movie but he is quick to point out that he had no creative input into the film.

"I didn't agree with every decision that was made in the film, but I do understand and respect the film maker, knowing his limits as a writer," said Foer. "Besides, I'm not very good at writing screenplays," he added.

During a protracted question and answer period, Foer discussed the creative process of writing a novel and compared the experience to having a dialogue with another person.

"Writing a book is so vulnerable because it's an expression of yourself. If it's not what you wanted it to be, it's no one's fault but your own," he said.

The passages that Foer read from *Everything is Illuminated* show the world through the eyes of a precocious, intellectual nine year old child. One passage seemed to have the child free-associating on anything that popped into his mind in a Joycean stream-of-consciousness narrative turn.

The child constantly focuses on questions that deal with "what ifs" which provide impetus for the narrative.

In terms of his style and technique of writing, Foer said, "I am interested in energy and environment, not plot. I arrived at the conception of the child before I even had a plot for my novel," he added, saying, "I don't worry. I know when something is right."

Based upon his stay on the New York Times Bestseller List, Foer seems to have a good perception of what is not 'right.'



## ARTSCAPE

### BY ERIN DORSO

### SHOWS ARRIVING—BUT I'M DEPARTING

As a graduating senior who will be leaving St. Joseph's College in just a few weeks, this will be my last Arts column for *The Spirit*. Before I go, I wanted to tell you how much I have enjoyed sharing my thoughts with you for the last two years.

Art—or more properly—the arts, are very important in our society. As residents of the greatest city in the world, we have so many chances to experience the entire range of visual and performing arts here.

I hope that my fellow St. Joseph's students avail themselves of all that New York City has to offer for all of us.

Now, just as I began two years ago, I would like to devote my final column to informing you about some new shows that will be arriving on and off Broadway this spring and in the near future.

I think if you get the chance to see some or all of these, you will come away with a new and deeper appreciation of theater.

Here are some of the more interesting choices for the upcoming months:

**Indoor/Outdoor** This love story is told through the eyes of Samantha, a housecat. Her search for adventure and unconditional love leads her to the last place she would think to look.

**Miss Julie** A young woman has just dissolved her engagement. Deciding she needs a distraction, she begins flirting with Jean, her family's manservant. A struggle for power and pride ensues when Jean gives Julie a dose of her own medicine.

**Three Days of Rain** Three neighbors meet up in New York to divide the estates of their late fathers who were business partners. They begin to wonder about the connection between their fathers. This shifts the play into the

past to tell the story.

**Shining City** A man seeks help from a counselor after he encounters his wife's ghost. The struggle between the living and the dead changes and shapes both men.

**Ring of Fire** Based on the music of Johnny Cash, this musical takes the audience through a story of love, faith, struggle and success.

**Sarah, Plain and Tall** This family-oriented musical is based on the book of the same name. A mail-order bride brings joy and song into the family she is to live with.

**The Threepenny Opera** The London underworld comes to Broadway in this revival of the great Kurt Weill musical. Pickpockets, prostitutes—and Mack the Knife perform before your very eyes. Make sure you check your belongings before you leave!

**Tarzan** This beloved Disney movie comes to life on the Broadway stage as did its predecessors, *The Lion King* and *Sleeping Beauty*. An infant is stranded in the jungle when his parents are killed. A female gorilla raises it, but when a scientist and his daughter happen upon the family, the now grown man begins to wonder where he belongs.

**The Wedding Singer** Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. Your salad is now being served. The Great White Way would like to welcome this film comedy classic to the stage. Can Robbie, a bitter wedding singer, get the girl of his dreams to break off her current engagement and marry him?

For more information on these and other Broadway shows, check out the website: [www.broadway.com](http://www.broadway.com)

Well, that's it for me. Time to pack up and head out—for the future. So long St. Joe's!

# Mardi Gras Ushers In Lenten Season

By Ashley Pucciarelli

The Lenten season, with its gestures of self-sacrifice, ended with Easter Sunday. But at the other end, the beginning of the 40 day period was ushered in with Mardi Gras on the St. Joseph's campus.

Typically associated with the city of New Orleans, Mardi Gras, or 'Fat Tuesday' in French, is one last feast—one last party before the beginning of Lent.

In New Orleans, the occasion is marked with enormous parades, parties, festivals—and endless jazz music in the city which was birthplace to jazz as an American art form.

The celebration at St. Joseph's was, of course, more modest, but fun nonetheless.

Organized by Campus Ministry and Outreach Club under the guidance of S. Susan Wilcox, along with CAB, the party took place in the Bear's Lounge of the cafeteria in McEntegart Hall during common hour on Tuesday, February 28th.

Everything from hot food to frozen drinks was on the menu for the Mardi Gras celebration. In the festooned lounge, decorated by members of CAB and Campus Outreach, the party-goers were treated to music, friends, and the spirit of the season.

"Mardi Gras is a fun event that we hold," said S. Susan. "The meaning of the day is to party and eat to excess before Lent. Ash Wednesday starts Lent off and Lent

is a time we give up things for 40 days," she added.

For the hundred students who attended the event, any chance to party was a positive experience.

"It was really fun, especially with the free food! I got a chance to hang out with my classmates and pig out!" said Victoria Simon.

"Mardi Gras was great. I love celebrating this every year. It reminds me of back home. I had a lot of fun and the food was great. I loved it!" said Jennifer Fatal.

No Zulu Parade, no procession down Basin Street, no all-night club-crawls in the Latin Quarter. But for St. Joseph's students, a meaningful start to a most significant part of the religious calendar.



Drinks are served (non-alcoholic, of course) at Mardi Gras

**Congratulations to the  
new officers of  
U.A. and C.A.B.**

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

By The SJC Historical Society

**April 5, 1614**

Pocahontas marries Virginia planter John Rolfe, ensuring peace between the Jamestown colony and the Powhatan Indians for several years.

**April 12, 1861**

The Confederate Army fires on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, starting the American Civil War.

**April 14, 1865**

President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending a play at Ford's Theatre. Lincoln dies the next day.

**April 14, 1912**

R.M.S. Titanic strikes an iceberg off the Grand Banks of North America, sinking in 2 hours, one of the worst maritime disasters in history. Over 1500 lives were lost.

**April 30, 1945**

Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his bunker beneath the city of Berlin, effectively ending the 'Thousand Year Reich.'

**April 3, 1948**

President Truman signs the

Foreign Assistance Act, also known as the Marshall Plan, offering aid to the nations of Europe to help them recover from the devastation of the Second World War.

**April 9, 1959**

The first American astronauts are introduced by NASA: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper Jr., John Glenn Jr., Virgil 'Gus' Grissom, Walter Schirra, Jr., Alan Shepard Jr., and Donald Slayton.

**April 26, 1970**

Gypsy Rose Lee, whose autobiography became the basis for the Broadway musical *Gypsy*, which starred Ethel Merman, dies at the age of 56.

**April 2, 1987**

The United States government allows the states to raise the speed limit on rural roads from 55 mph to 65 mph.

**April 26, 1989**

Lucille Ball, star of *I Love Lucy* and *The Lucy Show* dies at the age of 78 of congestive heart failure.





The big moment arrives: Commencement Exercises

# Class of 2006 Prepares to Bid Farewell

## Record-sized class ready to turn tassels and move on

By Christina Ament

And finally, the moment that some have yearned for, and some have dreaded—graduation.

The 87<sup>th</sup> annual commencement exercises of St. Joseph's College will be held on Friday, June 2, 2006 at 4 PM on the mall in front of the Dillon Child Study Center.

The Baccalaureate Address will be delivered by Johanna Duncan-Poiter, the Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education and the Professions of the New York State Education Department.

Ms. Duncan-Poiter's responsibilities include overseeing the training and certification of more than 225,000 public school teachers in New York State. She will talk to the graduates and their families about her experiences in education, while at the same time offering advice to the numerous graduates who are going into the teaching profession.

She will be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the college.

Another speech that will be given is the valedictory address. While the name of the valedictorian is not known as *The Spirit* goes to press, the process for selecting the individual is three-fold in nature.

"First, the Registrar's Office identifies the top 10% of the class based on GPA," said S. Margaret Buckley.

Then, the senior class selects four people from this group. Finally, these four finalists are interviewed by a committee consisting of two faculty members, two students (the UA president and the Senior

Representative). S. Margaret, Director of Student Services Sherri VanArnam and the new Dean of Students Dr. Susan Hudec were the faculty members who also interviewed the candidates for valedictorian.

The interviews took place of April 17, 2006, and results were made known shortly thereafter.

Members of the Class of 2006 also go through a selection process to determine what honors they will receive at graduation.

Such honors include general honors (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *cum laude*), departmental honors in Accounting, Biology, Child Study, History, Mathematics, Psychology, Social Sciences and Speech Communication, and awards for members in honor societies.

Commencement begins with the procession of students, faculty, administration, honored guests, Board of Trustees and alumni who will be hooding their graduates related to them.

Following the singing of the National Anthem by Dr. Hanophy of the Biology Department, S. Elizabeth Hill, President of St. Joseph's College, will make opening remarks to the gathered audience.

The ceremony will end with a benediction and the recessional as the students leave the mall.

The many different aspects of graduation require months of planning. "Graduation is a collaborative effort," said Sherrie VanArnam and everyone from the Board of Trustees to members of the faculty are invited to have input into the event.

"I have a checklist three pages

long," said Ms. VanArnam, "and it includes everything from placing the plants onstage, to painting the state," she added.

One important item on that checklist is reserving the tent in case of rain, as occurred for the graduation of the Class of 2005.

There is no rain date for graduation, but in case of a downpour, Bishop Loughlin High School can be used as a backup site. Several time in St. Joseph's history, graduation had to be moved to Loughlin.

"Of course, students prefer to stay on the mall," said Ms. VanArnam, but that all depends on the weather.

S. Margaret suggests that because of the small size of the college, the graduation is a very unique experience when compared to other, larger schools. "Unlike schools that merely hand an empty diploma case to students as they walk across the stage, St. Joseph's actually gives the diploma to the graduates at commencement," said S. Margaret.

Approximately 125 students are expected to graduate this year, though not all attend the actual graduation ceremony.

"It's important to attend commencement," said Ms. VanArnam. "It ties together everything you have worked for in the last four years," she added.

It is the beginning of a new period of life for the graduates of St. Joseph's College. More a commencement than a completion. Now, the real business of life actually begins.

## Science Club Sponsors Second Blood Drive

By Gurjit Singh

Once again the Science Club at St. Joe's has gone to bat for some of the neediest people in the metropolitan area—those in need of blood.

The second Blood Drive of the year under the sponsorship of the club was held on April 17-18 in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

The New York Blood Center, which distributes blood to area hospitals, sent a crew of technicians to handle the blood donations.

A simple questionnaire and pre-donation physical plus a finger-stick to screen a blood sample was required of each prospective donor before they could give blood.

Each pint of blood that is donated proves to be invaluable because it can be broken down into five separate component parts and therefore help five separate people.

The over 40 pints of blood collected can, therefore, provide life saving assistance to more than 200 people.

"I donate blood because people are in need of it," said Gracia Gustave. "I like to think that if I

were ever in need of blood, someone would be there to donate for me," he added.

The entire process of blood donation takes about fifteen minutes from the moment the catheter is inserted (painlessly, by most accounts) into the arm to the moment the donor drinks some orange juice and eats some cookies following the actual donation.

Cots are provided in case a donor feels weak, but according to a New York Blood Center spokesperson, "Most of the donors recover very quickly and there are really no ill effects."

The Science Club presidents, Victoria Simon and Jennifer Fatal, as well as the moderator, S. Mary Maier, realize the importance of these blood drives for the New York community.

They are a regular part of the club's annual schedule and already, plans are underway for the first drive of the fall semester.

"It's nice to see that so many St. Joe's students have the courage to do this," said freshman Tara Vafiadou.

## Campus Happenings 2005-2006



Checking Blood Pressure at the Health Fair



Dance Team performs at Midday Madness



Volleyball stars Marzena Stadnicka and Magdalena Wiecek



A typical common hour event luncheon



## THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

*What career have you decided upon for your future?*



I came to St. Joseph's College to be a teacher, and that is the career I will pursue.

—Kristina Mastropietro



Right now, I am undecided between a profession in the sciences or in Child Study.

—Josepina Buoncore



My career of choice is Early Childhood. I want to teach on the elementary school level.

—Erika Melendez



To tell you the truth, I haven't really thought it through yet, so I guess you would say I am undecided.

—Stephen Klein



I would like to have a career as an Occupational Therapist.

—Nicole Hood



I'm a business major and am looking for a career in that field.

—Anthony Velez



I want to be an M.D. with a particular specialty of psychiatry.

—Amanda Gavigan



I'm a speech major and would like to be a Speech Therapist.

—Laura Ferentino



My goal in life is to become a Pharmacist.

—Jessica Ann Burzotta



I would like to be a teacher and teach second graders.

—Amanda Terrone



I guess I am what would be considered a 'pre-law' student because I want to be an attorney.

—Ivan Nichols

## College to Career Expo Offers Job Ops to Seniors

By Gurjit Singh

For seniors, May brings thoughts of graduation and celebrating the end of four years of college. But it also brings thoughts of more serious subjects as well—like finding a job or starting a career.

All the preparation that St. Joseph's College has provided its students amounts to relatively little if they cannot find employment in their fields upon completion of school.

To address these concerns, the college's Office of Counseling and Career Services has been hard at work looking for ways to help students realize their career dreams and goals.

On April 7, 2006, St. Joseph's, along with five other area colleges, presented "Bridges to Success," a job fair that was open to all students who were seeking information about job opportunities.

May 3 will see an even bigger job fair, the Brooklyn College to Career Expo, which will be held at the New York Marriott Hotel at the Brooklyn

Bridge from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The Career Expo is open to seniors only, and numerous job and career areas will be available for investigation.

Recruiters will be on site in areas such as business and finance, insurance, real estate, retail information technology, health care and many more.

Opportunities for full time and part time employment as well as internships will all be on display at the College to Career Expo.

To attend the Expo, seniors will first have to register in the Counseling and Career services Center.

Director of Counseling and Career Services Frank LaTerra recommends that any student attending the Expo should dress in appropriate business attire since first impressions with recruiters can be crucial.

Students should also come prepared with a minimum of 25 resumes to give to recruiters in the fields of interest that they wish to pursue.

Since the resume is a vital tool for

recruiters, and often can make the difference between getting an interview or not, the resume must absolutely 'shine' by being informative, attractive and error-free.

It is also advisable for students to have an accompanying cover letter, or possibly several different cover letters if they have multiple career interests, to leave with recruiters.

Preparing a resume can be stressful and exacting. Help is available to any student, particularly graduating seniors, in the Counseling and Career Services Center.

Additional information about Brooklyn's College to Career Expo can be obtained in the Counseling and Career Services Center in Tuohy Hall. Students should see either Frank LaTerra or Lily Shmulevich for answers to their questions.

More details about what companies will be represented at the Expo can be found on its website at [www.brooklynccarexpo.com](http://www.brooklynccarexpo.com).

## Chapel Players Hits it Big With Neil Simon Comedy

By Erin Dorso

The common definition of a fool is one who is deficient in judgment; a simpleton. This semester's Chapel Players production of Neil Simon's *Fools* proved that there were anything but fools involved in this production.

Set in the Ukrainian village of Kulyenchikov, *Fools* tells the tale of a town cursed by stupidity. The curse was the result of an unrequited love from long ago.

Leon Tolchinsky is a school-teacher who comes to Kulyenchikov in response to a classified ad. He resolves to break the curse once he meets Sofia Zubritsky, with whom he instantly falls in love.

The only problem is that Sofia is being wooed by an unwanted suitor, Count Gregor. To lift the curse, Sofia must marry the count or become educated within twenty-four hours of Tolchinsky's arrival.

What can I say? Hilarity ensues in the race against time that eventually leads to a wedding.

I have never been disappointed by a Chapel Players production. Of all of them, *Fools* has been my

favorite. Each role was perfectly cast and the sets were appropriately childish.

Anthony Catalanotti did a star turn as Leon Tolchinsky. His delivery possessed a contagious enthusiasm that propelled Simon's dialogue throughout the play.

Willow Figueroa, in the role of Sofia Zubritsky, exuded a blissful naivety. The heartfelt exchanges between the two lead characters could not help but make the audience smile.

Adam Mace and Emily McManus as Doctor Zubritsky and Lenya Zubritsky elicited the most laughter from the audience. Their senseless antics and random exclamatory outbursts demonstrated an expert sense of comic timing.

I rarely descend into side-splitting laughter, but some of Simon's lines led to that kind of reaction—not only from me, but from the entire house as well.

Amanda Gavagan was a formidable in the role of Yenchna the vendor. From her smoker's rasp to her vivid yellow tights, she was a

vision on stage.

The role of Snetsky the sheep herder was played by Christina Traverson, whose perky voice evoked the infantile quality of the nursery rhyme character she resembled.

Carlos Pimentel was wonderful in the role of the magistrate, while Alyson Putre and Andrea Rosado as Slovitch the butcher and Mishkin the postmistress, impressed the audience with their clueless characters.

Las but not least, Stephen Klein brought the voice of Sesame Street's "The Count" to the role of Count Gregor. His stature and projection made for an imposing stage figure.

*Fools* will never be confused with first-line Neil Simon. Plays such as *The Odd Couple*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, and *The Sunshine Boys*, are Broadway legends—which this play is not.

However, the comic demands of the show are great, and the Chapel Players once again showed their flair for comedy and versatility by bringing off a production that was admirable in every respect.



Leon woos the beautiful Sofiya in Act I



Snetsky the Sheep Herder welcomes Leon to town



# ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



## THE SPORTING LIFE

BY MARK WILSON

### KIDS' ATHLETIC CLUBS: WHERE THE REAL SPORTS ARE

As sports fans, we often become lost in the melee of the David Wrights and the Derek Jeters or the Eli Mannings and Chad Penningtons. We forget that these stars were once little leaguers. We forget that someone had to teach them how to hit the change-up or throw the perfect spiral.

Who are these instructors and coaches? They are the people in your neighborhood: your accountant, your exterminator, your grocer—maybe even your father or mother.

The Dyker Heights Athletic Association (DHAA), "The Knights," began in 1998 as the brainchild of current president Joseph Girgenti. Girgenti recalls handing out baseball uniforms from the back of his van during that inaugural season.

The Knights now not only offer baseball, but softball, NFL Flag Football, basketball and indoor soccer. Their number of registrants has grown from just a few baseball teams to over 250 kids in each of their respective sports. That's over 1000 kids a year!

Mr. Girgenti did not accomplish this task alone. The original board of directors has grown from just four members to 21 members and countless coaches and assistants.

However, even with all of this help, the Knights board of directors still finds themselves pulling all-nighters at their monthly board meetings. They continuously stretch themselves thin running practices, coaching teams and filling out mounds of paperwork.

Then there's the task of dealing with unruly parents and meeting with politicians in order to gain access to desperately needed fields.

These men and women don't receive a paycheck for their incalculable hours of hard work and dedication. Why then do they subject themselves to it? "For the kids," is what every member of the DHAA would say without hesitation.

When I began my initial work on this column, I immediately thought of interviewing all the members and getting their thoughts about what it's like to run a sports organization.

But what I found in an e-mail from the Knights' treasurer, Peter McCarthy, explained it all. In it, he includes various letters he has received from both parents and children about their experiences with the Knights:

• A young girl writes: "My soccer season has been special because you have been my coach. I learned a lot about teamwork and had fun all season long."

• A mother writes: "Thank you for all your recognition to each one of these children. It means a lot. They certainly learned teamwork and the ability to play hard under your leadership. Thanks for caring from them as you do."

• A father writes: "Your enthusiasm and kindness is very much appreciated."

I can fill every page of *The Spirit* and then some, with letters from young men and women who had a special experience with the Knights.

The catalysts for these valued moments include the countless dedicated coaches of the DHAA, but also the practices implemented by the Knights.

The motto of the Knights organization, which is emblazoned on their various t-shirts and on their website is, "Nurturing Thru Competition."

Although this may seem like some sort of oxymoron, it shouldn't be. All over the nation, various youth sports organizations and athletic leagues have taken the competition out of sports.

Some have gone so far as to not keep score and count games as a tie. That way there are no 'losers.' Is this truly teaching our children about the 'real world?'

In life, there are winners and there are losers and the DHAA teaches that valuable lesson to Brooklyn's youth.

However, the Knights teach, as their motto indicates, winning and losing does not define the person you are, but rather the effort which you put forth.

Parents hope that their children are going to make it to the 'big.' Their little Billy is going to be the next David Wright or their little Jane is going to be the next Jenny Finch.

While this is nice to imagine, it should not be the goal of enrolling a child in a sports program. The various athletes we see on ESPN did not begin playing sports with the intention of making the big bucks. They began for the fun.

And people like Joe Girgenti and the other members of the DHAA don't become coaches and mentors in hopes of transforming children into Major Leaguers, but rather transforming children into men and women.

To learn more about "The Knights," log onto their website at [www.knightsaa.org](http://www.knightsaa.org).

## Rugged Season for Lady Bear Softballers

*Lack of playing experience damages playoff hopes*

By Svetlana Medvedeva

Rebuilding a team is never an easy task, and the Lady Bears Softball Team has certainly learned the truth of that during the first half of the 2006 season.

The team that had high hopes for making the Hudson Valley Athletic Conference playoffs has not quite materialized this season.

At press time, the team's record was 3-9 for a .250 winning percentage, not yet good enough to compete for a conference crown.

One of the main difficulties the team seems to be having is on offense. After 12 games, the team's cumulative batting average was only .239. The slugging percentage was not much better at .279 and the total on-base average was a mere .317.

The team had managed only one home run and a total of 7 extra base hits.

For the 12 games, the Lady

Bears were managing to score only 4 runs per game.

Pitching too was shaping up as a problem area. The pitching staff's ERA was 6.42 after a dozen games and it had allowed over twice as many walks as it had strikeouts, 72-35. Nearly 66% of the runs allowed were earned.

Individually, some of the players have been having positive seasons. Outfielder Lynette Reyes was leading the team with a .435 batting average followed by senior infielder Laurie Hartwig batting .350.

Theresa Mendez was batting .333 and P/SS Kristin Kealey was hitting .323.

Catcher/3rd Baseman Kristin Izzo was leading the club with 6 steals without being caught followed by Kristin Healey and Ryan Vasquez with 4 apiece.

Izzo was also leading the team with 8 RBIs, 2 ahead of Carol

Jeanne Kavanaugh with 6.

Coach Frank Carbone brings to his 5<sup>th</sup> season as coach of the Lady Bears Softball Team a 69-27 record. He has also been named HVWAC Coach of the year for three straight years (2003-2005).

But Coach Carbone has stated that it takes time for a team to gel, as opposed to individuals garnering big numbers. But that coming-together for a team only happens with experience playing together.

The 2006 Lady Bears are gaining that experience, but the learning curve is steep and it will take time.

Fortunately, Laurie Hartwig is the only senior on the squad who will be lost to graduation.

The prospect for the bulk of the team staying together and being joined by new rookies out of high school means that things should look up for the Lady Bears in 2007.



## Softball Snapshots

Versatile Kristin Izzo, who pitched as well as played first base and caught, demonstrates her powerful infield arm in a game against NYU which the Lady Bears won 15-7. She was also leading the Lady Bears in RBI's with 8 (photo upper left).

Carol Jeanne Kavanaugh was eluding the team in slugging average (.440) and was second in RBI's with 7. She also posted the team's only home run for the 2006 season thus far (photo above).

Senior Kristin Healey is the workhorse of the pitching staff, having thus far pitched over 37 innings. She led the pitchers in strikeouts with 19 Ks thus far. She shows off her whip-like arm in a game against NYU. She also was batting .323 for the Lady Bears (photo left).